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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Student Party Organization at the
Polytechnical Institute in BelgradePLACE
ACQUIRED

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DATE OF
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1. All students of higher education are obligatory members of the student organization which is under the auspices of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia (CPY). The organizers within the organization and leaders of subordinate student groups are chosen from among pre-war Party members. Every semester the students of each class group are screened, and from among them activists are chosen. A UDB official who is generally registered as a student at the faculty is to be found in each group of student activists.
2. A conference of the student activists is held weekly at the Institute, attendance being obligatory. The conference is divided into two parts. The first part which is political, entails a report by a Party member, from which a discussion develops. The second part of the conference is essentially theoretical and practical.
3. It is alleged that in the past several months a process of internal disintegration within the Party has been clearly perceptible at these conferences. Although violent articulation against Cominformists is desired by the Yugoslav regime, the student speakers maintain a reserved attitude. In the event of an armed attack by the Soviet satellites, it is believed that the pro-Cominform students would constitute a fifth column.
4. The professional plane of the Polytechnical Institute in Belgrade is very low. In the past semester 83 per cent of the students failed their examinations. It appears that the major difficulty lies in the scarcity of preparatory schools. Also, many of the students registered at the Institute are wartime partisans, with little or no technical knowledge. There is a lack of necessary instruments in the laboratories. The economic status of the students is disastrous. Scholarships, which range between 1,500 and 2,000 dinars, do not suffice even for the bare necessities. Seventy per cent of the students at the Institute are reportedly infected with tuberculosis. The food in the mess hall is poor.

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Comment: Your attention is called to [redacted] which 25X1A reported on the KSO (People's Student Youth) in connection with the faculties at the University of Zagreb.

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